

General Assembly

Raised Bill No. 1096

January Session, 2013

LCO No. 4338



Referred to Committee on EDUCATION

Introduced by: (ED)

## AN ACT CONCERNING GOVERNANCE OF THE STATE EDUCATION RESOURCE CENTER.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Assembly convened:

- 1 Section 1. (NEW) (Effective from passage) (a) There is hereby
- 2 established and created a body politic and corporate, constituting a
- 3 public instrumentality and political subdivision of the state of
- 4 Connecticut established and created to be a public educational
- 5 authority acting on behalf of the state of Connecticut, to be known as
- 6 the State Education Resource Center. The center shall not be construed
- 7 to be a department, institution or agency of the state.
- 8 (b) (1) The powers of the center shall be vested in and exercised by a
- 9 board of directors, which shall consist of seven members: Four
- 10 appointed by the Governor, with the advice and consent of both
- 11 houses of the General Assembly; two appointed by the State Board of
- 12 Education; and the Commissioner of Education, or the commissioner's
- designee. The appointed members shall serve for terms of four years
- each and may be reappointed in accordance with this subsection. Any
- 15 vacancy occurring other than by expiration of term shall be filled in the

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same manner as the original appointment for the balance of the unexpired term.

- (2) The chairperson of the board under this subsection shall be appointed by the Governor, with the advice and consent of both houses of the General Assembly, and shall serve at the pleasure of the Governor.
- (3) The chairperson shall, with the approval of the members of the board of directors, appoint an executive director of the center who shall be an employee of the center and paid a salary prescribed by the board. The executive director shall supervise the administrative affairs and technical activities of the center in accordance with the directives of the board.
- (c) Four members of the board of directors of the center shall constitute a quorum for the transaction of any business or the exercise of any power of the State Education Resource Center. For the transaction of any business or the exercise of any power of the center, and except as otherwise provided in this section and sections 2 to 4, inclusive, of this act, the center may act by a majority of the members present at any meeting at which a quorum is in attendance.
- (d) Members shall receive no compensation for their services but shall be entitled to reimbursement for such member's actual and necessary expenses incurred during the performance of such member's official duties. Members may engage in private employment, or in a profession or business, subject to any applicable laws, rules and regulations of the state regarding official ethics or conflict of interest. It shall not constitute a conflict of interest for a trustee, director, partner or officer of any person, firm or corporation, or any individual having a financial interest in a person, firm or corporation, to serve as a member of the board of directors of the center, provided such trustee, director, partner, officer or individual shall comply with all applicable provisions of chapter 10 of the general statutes.

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Sec. 2. (NEW) (Effective from passage) (a) The purposes of the State Education Resource Center, established pursuant to section 1 of this act, shall be to assist the State Board of Education in the provision of programs and activities that will promote educational equity and excellence. Such activities may include training and professional development seminars, publication of technical materials, research and evaluation, and other related activities. The center may support programs and activities concerning early childhood education, improving school and district academic performance, and closing the academic achievement gap between socio-economic subgroups, and other related programs. For such purposes the center is authorized and empowered to:

- (1) Have perpetual succession as a body politic and corporate and to adopt bylaws for the regulation of its affairs and the conduct of its business;
- 62 (2) Adopt an official seal and alter the same at pleasure;

- 63 (3) Maintain an office at such place or places as it may designate;
- 64 (4) Sue and be sued in its own name, and plead and be impleaded;
  - (5) Employ such assistants, agents and other employees as may be necessary or desirable who shall not be employees, as defined in subsection (b) of section 5-270 of the general statutes; establish all necessary or appropriate personnel practices and policies, including those relating to hiring, promotion, compensation, retirement and collective bargaining, which need not be in accordance with chapter 68 of the general statutes, and the center shall not be an employer as defined in subsection (a) of section 5-270 of the general statutes; and engage consultants, attorneys and appraisers as may be necessary or desirable to carry out its purposes in accordance with this section and sections 1, 3 and 4 of this act;
  - (6) Receive and accept aid or contributions from any source of

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money, property, labor or other things of value, to be held, used and applied to carry out the purposes of this section and sections 1, 3 and 4 of this act, subject to such conditions upon which such grants and contributions may be made, including, but not limited to, gifts or grants from any department, agency or instrumentality of the United States or this state for any purpose consistent with this section and sections 1, 3 and 4 of this act;

(7) Borrow money for the purpose of obtaining working capital;

- (8) Make and enter into all contracts and agreements necessary or incidental to the performance of its duties and the execution of its powers under this section and sections 1, 3 and 4 of this act, including contracts and agreements for such professional services as the center deems necessary, including, but not limited to, financial consultants, underwriters and technical specialists;
- (9) Acquire, lease, purchase, own, manage, hold and dispose of personal property, and lease, convey or deal in or enter into agreements with respect to such property on any terms necessary or incidental to the carrying out of these purposes;
- (10) Invest in, acquire, lease, purchase, own, manage, hold and dispose of real property and lease, convey or deal in or enter into agreements with respect to such property on any terms necessary or incidental to carrying out the purposes of this section and sections 1, 3 and 4 of this act, provided such transactions shall not be subject to approval, review or regulation by any state agency pursuant to title 4b of the general statutes or any other provision of the general statutes;
- (11) Procure insurance against any liability or loss in connection with its property and other assets, in such amounts and from such insurers as it deems desirable and to procure insurance for employees;
- 105 (12) Account for and audit funds of the center and funds of any recipients of funds from the center;

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107 (13) Hold patents, copyrights, trademarks, marketing rights, 108 licenses, or any other evidences of protection or exclusivity as to any 109 products as defined in this section and sections 1, 3 and 4 of this act, 110 issued under the laws of the United States or any state or any nation;

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- (14) Establish advisory committees to assist in accomplishing its duties under this section and sections 1, 3 and 4 of this act, which may include one or more members of the board of directors and persons other than members; and
- (15) Do all acts and things necessary or convenient to carry out the purposes of this section and sections 1, 3 and 4 of this act, and the powers expressly granted by this section and sections 1, 3 and 4 of this act.
  - The State Education Resource Center shall establish a Connecticut School Reform Resource Center either within the State Education Resource Center or by contract through a regional educational service center, established pursuant to section 10-66a of the general statutes. The Connecticut School Reform Resource Center shall operate year-round and shall focus on serving the needs of all public schools. The Connecticut School Reform Resource Center shall (1) publish and distribute reports on the most effective practices for improving student achievement by successful schools; (2) provide a program of professional development activities for (A) school leaders, including curriculum coordinators, principals, superintendents and board of education members, and (B) teachers to educate students that includes research-based child development and reading instruction tools and practices; (3) provide information on successful models for evaluating student performance and managing student data; (4) develop strategies for assisting such students who are in danger of failing; (5) develop culturally-relevant methods for educating students whose primary language is not English; and (6) provide other programs and materials to assist in the improvement of public schools.

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(c) The State Education Resource Center shall be subject to rules, regulations or restrictions on purchasing, procurement, personal service agreements or the disposition of assets generally applicable to Connecticut state agencies, including those contained in titles 4a and 4b of the general statutes and the corresponding rules and regulations.

Sec. 3. (NEW) (Effective from passage) The members of the board of directors of the State Education Resource Center, established pursuant to section 1 of this act, shall adopt written procedures, in accordance with the provisions of section 1-121 of the general statutes, for: (1) Adopting an annual budget and plan of operations, including a requirement of board approval before the budget or plan may take effect; (2) hiring, dismissing, promoting and compensating employees of the center, including an affirmative action policy and a requirement of board approval before a position may be created or a vacancy filled; (3) acquiring real and personal property and personal services, including a requirement of board approval for any nonbudgeted expenditure in excess of an amount to be determined by the board; and (4) contracting for financial, legal, consulting and other professional services, including a requirement that the center solicit proposals at least once every three years for each such service which it uses.

Sec. 4. (NEW) (*Effective from passage*) For the fiscal year ending June 30, 2014, the State Education Resource Center shall annually submit a yearly budget, projected revenue statement and financial audit to the State Board of Education and the joint standing committee of the General Assembly having cognizance of matters relating to education, in accordance with the provisions of section 11-4a of the general statutes.

Sec. 5. Subsection (l) of section 1-79 of the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective from passage*):

168 (I) "Quasi-public agency" means Connecticut Innovations,

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- 169 Incorporated, and the Connecticut Health and Education Facilities
- 170 Authority, Connecticut Higher Education Supplemental Loan
- 171 Authority, Connecticut Housing Finance Authority, Connecticut
- 172 Housing Authority, Connecticut Resources Recovery Authority, Lower
- 173 Fairfield County Convention Center Authority, Capital Region
- 174 Development Authority, Connecticut Lottery Corporation, Connecticut
- 175 Airport Authority, Health Information Technology Exchange of
- 176 Connecticut, Connecticut Health Insurance Exchange, [and] Clean
- 177 Energy Finance and Investment Authority and the State Education
- 178 Resource Center.
- 179 Sec. 6. Section 1-120 of the general statutes is repealed and the
- 180 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective from passage*):
- 181 As used in sections 1-120 to 1-123, inclusive:
- 182 (1) "Quasi-public agency" means Connecticut Innovations,
- 183 Incorporated, and the Connecticut Health and Educational Facilities
- 184 Authority, Connecticut Higher Education Supplemental Loan
- 185 Authority, Connecticut Housing Finance Authority, Connecticut
- 186 Housing Authority, Connecticut Resources Recovery Authority,
- 187 Capital Region Development Authority, Connecticut Lottery
- 188 Corporation, Connecticut Airport Authority, Health Information
- 189 Technology Exchange of Connecticut, Connecticut Health Insurance
- 190 Exchange, [and] Clean Energy Finance and Investment Authority and
- 191 the State Education Resource Center.
- 192 (2) "Procedure" means each statement, by a quasi-public agency, of
- 193 general applicability, without regard to its designation, that
- implements, interprets or prescribes law or policy, or describes the
- organization or procedure of any such agency. The term includes the
- 196 amendment or repeal of a prior regulation, but does not include,
- unless otherwise provided by any provision of the general statutes, (A)
- 198 statements concerning only the internal management of any agency
- and not affecting procedures available to the public, and (B) intra-

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- 200 agency memoranda.
- 201 (3) "Proposed procedure" means a proposal by a quasi-public 202 agency under the provisions of section 1-121 for a new procedure or 203 for a change in, addition to or repeal of an existing procedure.
- Sec. 7. Section 1-124 of the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective from passage*):
- 206 (a) Connecticut Innovations, Incorporated, the Connecticut Health 207 and Educational Facilities Authority, the Connecticut Higher 208 Education Supplemental Loan Authority, the Connecticut Housing 209 Finance Authority, the Connecticut Housing Authority, 210 Connecticut Resources Recovery Authority, the Health Information 211 Technology Exchange of Connecticut, the Connecticut Airport 212 Authority, the Capital Region Development Authority, 213 Connecticut Health Insurance Exchange, [and] the Clean Energy 214 Finance and Investment Authority and the State Education Resource 215 <u>Center</u> shall not borrow any money or issue any bonds or notes which 216 are guaranteed by the state of Connecticut or for which there is a 217 capital reserve fund of any kind which is in any way contributed to or 218 guaranteed by the state of Connecticut until and unless such 219 borrowing or issuance is approved by the State Treasurer or the 220 Deputy State Treasurer appointed pursuant to section 3-12. The 221 approval of the State Treasurer or said deputy shall be based on 222 documentation provided by the authority that it has sufficient 223 revenues to (1) pay the principal of and interest on the bonds and notes 224 issued, (2) establish, increase and maintain any reserves deemed by the 225 authority to be advisable to secure the payment of the principal of and 226 interest on such bonds and notes, (3) pay the cost of maintaining, 227 servicing and properly insuring the purpose for which the proceeds of 228 the bonds and notes have been issued, if applicable, and (4) pay such 229 other costs as may be required.
- 230 (b) To the extent Connecticut Innovations, Incorporated, and the

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231 Connecticut Higher Education Supplemental Loan Authority, 232 Connecticut Housing Finance Authority, Connecticut Housing 233 Authority, Connecticut Resources Recovery Authority, Connecticut 234 Health and Educational Facilities Authority, the Health Information 235 Technology Exchange of Connecticut, the Connecticut Airport 236 Development Authority, the Capital Region Authority, 237 Connecticut Health Insurance Exchange, [or] the Clean Energy Finance 238 and Investment Authority or the State Education Resource Center is 239 permitted by statute and determines to exercise any power to 240 moderate interest rate fluctuations or enter into any investment or 241 program of investment or contract respecting interest rates, currency, 242 cash flow or other similar agreement, including, but not limited to, 243 interest rate or currency swap agreements, the effect of which is to 244 subject a capital reserve fund which is in any way contributed to or 245 guaranteed by the state of Connecticut, to potential liability, such 246 determination shall not be effective until and unless the State 247 Treasurer or his or her deputy appointed pursuant to section 3-12 has 248 approved such agreement or agreements. The approval of the State 249 Treasurer or his or her deputy shall be based on documentation 250 provided by the authority that it has sufficient revenues to meet the 251 financial obligations associated with the agreement or agreements.

Sec. 8. Section 1-125 of the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective from passage*):

254 The directors, officers and employees of Connecticut Innovations, 255 Incorporated, and the Connecticut Higher Education Supplemental 256 Loan Authority, Connecticut Housing Finance Authority, Connecticut 257 Housing Authority, Connecticut Resources Recovery Authority, 258 including ad hoc members of the Connecticut Resources Recovery 259 Authority, Connecticut Health and Educational Facilities Authority, 260 Capital Region Development Authority, the Health Information 261 Technology Exchange of Connecticut, Connecticut Airport Authority, 262 Connecticut Lottery Corporation, Connecticut Health Insurance 263 Exchange, [and] the Clean Energy Finance and Investment Authority

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Sec. 9. Section 10-4q of the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective from passage*):

[(a) The State Board of Education shall establish a State Education Resource Center to assist the board in the provision of programs and activities that will promote educational equity and excellence. Such activities, to be provided by the State Education Resource Center or a regional educational service center, may include training and professional development seminars, publication of technical materials, research and evaluation, and other related activities. The center may support programs and activities concerning early childhood education, the federal No Child Left Behind Act, P.L. 107-110, and closing the

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297 academic achievement gap between socio-economic subgroups, and 298 other related programs.]

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[(b)] The Commissioner of Education, with the assistance of the State Education Resource Center, established pursuant to section 1 of this act, may provide grants to local and regional boards of education for school districts [identified as in need of improvement under the provisions of section 10-223e. The] designated as alliance districts, pursuant to section 10-262u. Such grants shall be for the creation and acquisition of new curricula, training in the use of [the] such curricula and related supporting textbooks and other materials. [Local] Such local and regional boards of education may use such grants only for curricula, training and related textbooks and materials that have been authorized by the commissioner. [Local] Such local and regional boards of education shall apply for grants pursuant to this subsection at such time and in such manner as the commissioner prescribes, and the commissioner shall determine the amount of the grant awards.

(c) Within available appropriations, the Department of Education shall establish a Connecticut School Reform Resource Center within the State Education Resource Center established pursuant to subsection (a) of this section or by contract through a regional educational service center. The center shall operate year-round and focus on serving the needs of all public schools. The center shall (1) publish and distribute reports on the most effective practices for improving student achievement by successful schools, (2) provide a program of professional development activities for (A) school leaders, including curriculum coordinators, principals, superintendents and board of education members, and (B) teachers to educate such students that includes research-based child development and reading instruction tools and practices, (3) provide information on successful models for evaluating student performance and managing student data, (4) develop strategies for assisting such students who are in danger of failing, (5) develop culturally relevant methods for educating students whose primary language is not English, and (6)

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provide other programs and materials to assist in the improvement of public schools.]

- 332 Sec. 10. (NEW) (Effective from passage) The Commissioner of 333 Education may allocate funds to allow the State Education Resource 334 Center, established pursuant to section 1 of this act, to provide 335 professional development services, technical assistance and evaluation 336 activities, policy analysis and other forms of assistance to local and 337 regional boards of education, the Department of Education, state and 338 local charter schools, as defined in section 10-66aa of the general 339 statutes, the technical high school system, established pursuant to 340 section 10-95 of the general statutes, providers of school readiness 341 programs, as defined in section 10-16p of the general statutes and other 342 educational entities and providers. The State Education Resource 343 Center shall expend such funds in accordance with procedures and 344 conditions prescribed by the commissioner.
- Sec. 11. Section 10-76n of the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective from passage*):

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- (a) The State Board of Education shall continue to maintain the Special Education Resource Center, with federal funds granted to the state for the maintenance of said center under the provisions of the federal Education for the Handicapped Act, for purposes consistent with the provisions of said act as it may from time to time be amended. The Commissioner of Education is authorized to accept any federal funds allotted to the state for such purposes and shall administer such funds in accordance with federal law.
- (b) The Special Education Resource Center described in subsection (a) of this section may be conducted by the State Education Resource Center, established pursuant to section [10-4q] 1 of this act, as part of its program of activities.
- Sec. 12. Section 10-155j of the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective from passage*):

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The Department of Education [, through the State Education Resource Center and within available appropriations for such purposes, shall, within available appropriations, promote and encourage professional development activities for school paraprofessionals with instructional responsibilities. Such activities may include, but shall not be limited to, providing local and regional boards of education with training modules and curricula for professional development for paraprofessionals and assisting boards of education in the effective use of paraprofessionals and the development of strategies to improve communications between teachers and paraprofessionals in the provision of effective student instruction.

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- Sec. 13. Subdivision (20) of section 10-183b of the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective from passage*):
- 376 (20) "Public school" means any day school conducted within or 377 without this state under the orders and superintendence of a duly 378 elected school committee, a board of education, the State Board of 379 Education, the board of governors or any of its constituent units, the E. 380 O. Smith School, the Children's Center and its successors, the State 381 Education Resource Center established pursuant to section [10-4q] 1 of 382 this act, joint activities of boards of education authorized by subsection 383 (b) of section 10-158a and any institution supported by the state at 384 which teachers are employed or any incorporated secondary school 385 not under the orders and superintendence of a duly elected school 386 committee or board of education but located in a town not maintaining 387 a high school and providing free tuition to pupils of the town in which 388 it is located, and which has been approved by the State Board of 389 Education under the provisions of part II of chapter 164, provided that 390 such institution or such secondary school is classified as a public 391 school by the retirement board.
- 392 Sec. 14. Subdivision (26) of section 10-183b of the general statutes is

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repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective from passage*):

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- (26) "Teacher" means (A) any teacher, permanent substitute teacher, principal, assistant principal, supervisor, assistant superintendent or superintendent employed by the public schools in a professional capacity while possessing a certificate or permit issued by the State Board of Education, provided on and after July 1, 1975, such certificate shall be for the position in which the person is then employed, except as provided for in section 10-183qq, (B) certified personnel who provide health and welfare services for children in nonprofit schools, as provided in section 10-217a, under an oral or written agreement, (C) any person who is engaged in teaching or supervising schools for adults if the annual salary paid for such service is equal to or greater than the minimum salary paid for a regular, full-time teaching position in the day schools in the town where such service is rendered, (D) a member of the professional staff of the State Board of Education or of the Board of Regents for Higher Education or any of the constituent units, and (E) a member of the staff of the State Education Resource Center established pursuant to section 10-4q of the general statutes, revision of 1958, revised to January 1, 2013, employed in a professional capacity while possessing a certificate or permit issued by the State Board of Education. A "permanent substitute teacher" is one who serves as such for at least ten months during any school year.
- Sec. 15. Subdivision (17) of subsection (b) of section 10-183e of the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective from passage*):
  - (17) Service prior to July 1, 2007, as a member of the staff of the State Education Resource Center established pursuant to section 10-4q of the general statutes, revision of 1958, revised to January 1, 2007, employed in a professional capacity while possessing a certificate or permit issued by the State Board of Education.

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Sec. 16. Subsection (a) of section 10-222i of the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective from passage*):

- (a) The Department of Education, in consultation with the State Education Resource Center, established pursuant to section 1 of this act, the Governor's Prevention Partnership and the Commission on Children, shall establish, within available appropriations, a state-wide safe school climate resource network for the identification, prevention and education of school bullying in the state. Such state-wide safe school climate resource network shall make available to all schools information, training opportunities and resource materials to improve the school climate to diminish bullying.
- Sec. 17. Subsection (c) of section 10-290f of the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective from passage*):
  - (c) The Department of Construction Services may use the services of the [state education resource center pursuant to section 10-4q] <u>State</u> <u>Education Resource Center</u>, established pursuant to section 1 of this <u>act</u>, to carry out the provisions of this section.

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following			
sections:			
Section 1	from passage	New section	
Sec. 2	from passage	New section	
Sec. 3	from passage	New section	
Sec. 4	from passage	New section	
Sec. 5	from passage	1-79(l)	
Sec. 6	from passage	1-120	
Sec. 7	from passage	1-124	
Sec. 8	from passage	1-125	
Sec. 9	from passage	10-4q	
Sec. 10	from passage	New section	
Sec. 11	from passage	10-76n	

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Sec. 12	from passage	10-155j
Sec. 13	from passage	10-183b(20)
Sec. 14	from passage	10-183b(26)
Sec. 15	from passage	10-183e(b)(17)
Sec. 16	from passage	10-222i(a)
Sec. 17	from passage	10-290f(c)

## Statement of Purpose:

To establish the State Education Resource Center as a quasi-public agency.

[Proposed deletions are enclosed in brackets. Proposed additions are indicated by underline, except that when the entire text of a bill or resolution or a section of a bill or resolution is new, it is not underlined.]

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